SPAWN
30
est 1992
image
RORY McCONVILLE
CARLO BARBERI
326
DIGITAL EDITION

SPAWN
30
EST. 1992
image
326
DIGITAL EDITION
RORY McCONVILLE
CARLO BARBERI

SPAWN

SPAWN'S UNIVERSE 92 22

RORY McCONVILLE
SCRIPT/PLOT

CARLO BARBERI
ART

TOM ORZECHOWSKI
LETTERING

JAY DAVID RAMOS
COLORS

BJÖRN BARENDS
CARLO BARBERI
COVER ARTISTS

TODD McFARLANE
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

THOMAS HEALY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Associate Editor
YVETTE ARTEAGA

Production Artist
RYAN KEIZER

Publisher for
Image Comics/
Chief Creative Officer
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

HAUNT has returned! But with his savage attack on Spawn, whose side is he really on?

image

TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
McFARLANE.COM

Spawn #326. January 2022. First Printing. Published by IMAGE COMICS, PO BOX 14457, Portland, OR 97293 USA. Spawn, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks © 2022 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are TM and © 2022 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. The characters, events and stories in this publication are entirely fictional. With exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. **PRINTED IN CANADA**

It moved as effortlessly through the shadows as Al Simmons himself has learned to do.
And within seconds of Spawn's arrival, the creature is upon him, a whirlwind of talons and teeth.

ONCE, THIS WAS A MAN CALLED DANIEL KILGORE, THE SUPERPOWERED BEING KNOWN AS HAUNT.
NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS IN HIS PLACE IS A MINDLESS BEAST...
...ONE SEEMINGLY INCAPABLE OF BEING CONTROLLED OR REASONED WITH.
SLASHH

SPAWN KNOWS THERE'S ONLY ONE LANGUAGE CREATURES LIKE THIS UNDERSTAND.
ENOUGH!
THAT'S A SHOW OF SUPERIORITY!

C'MON, DANIEL. GET A GRIP. REMEMBER YOUR BREATHING.
TRYING MY BEST HERE, KURT.
I RECOGNIZE THIS GUY... I KNEW HIM WHEN HE WAS AL SIMMONS. TELL HIM YOU KNOW ME. TELL HIM--
WHO ARE YOU TWO?
YOU CAN SEE ME?
YES. NOW, WHO ARE YOU?
KURT KILGORE. WE MET YEARS AGO IN GUADALAJARA. YOU WERE THERE WITH THE U.S. SECURITY GROUP.
I ASKED ABOUT YOU!
LISTEN, LET'S CALM THINGS DOWN A SECOND? THIS IS JUST SOME MISUNDER-STANDING.

THIS IS MY BROTHER, DANIEL. ABOUT A MONTH BACK, HE WAS POISONED BY AN ASSASSIN POSING AS HIS GIRLFRIEND. HER NAME WAS LYDIA.
THE POISON'S KILLING HIM NOW, SLOWLY. WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO TRACK HER DOWN TO SEE IF THERE'S A CURE.
WE KNOW SHE'S PART OF A SECT OF ANGELS, BUT SO FAR WE HAVEN'T HAD MUCH LUCK FINDING THEM.
WHY DID ANGELS ATTACK YOU?
TRYING TO FIGURE THAT OUT. ALL I KNOW IS HEAVEN AND HELL HAVE IT OUT FOR US BECAUSE OF THIS SUIT AND THE SYMBOL ON IT.
LYDIA'S GROUP HAS AN ALLIANCE WITH FEGREDO'S CREW. IT'S WHY WE CAME, TO GET SOME ANSWERS.
THEN WHY'D YOU KILL HIM?

WASN'T THE PLAN. THE POISON IN ME, BESIDES TRYING TO KILL ME, IT'S BEEN CAUSING ISSUES WITH MY SUIT.
IN THE MIDDLE OF QUESTIONING FEGREDO HE ATTACKED ME AND... I LOST IT.
YOUR LACK OF CONTROL... IT'S COST ME MY ONE F*CKING LEAD.
BOTH OF YOU, RELAX!
LET'S JUST LOOK AROUND AND SEE IF WE CAN FIND ANY USEFUL INFORMATION.
YOU TWO START HERE. I'LL CHECK THE REST OF THE HOUSE.
SO, WHAT WERE YOU DOING HERE? I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.
COGLIOSTRO. YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE NAME COGLIOSTRO.

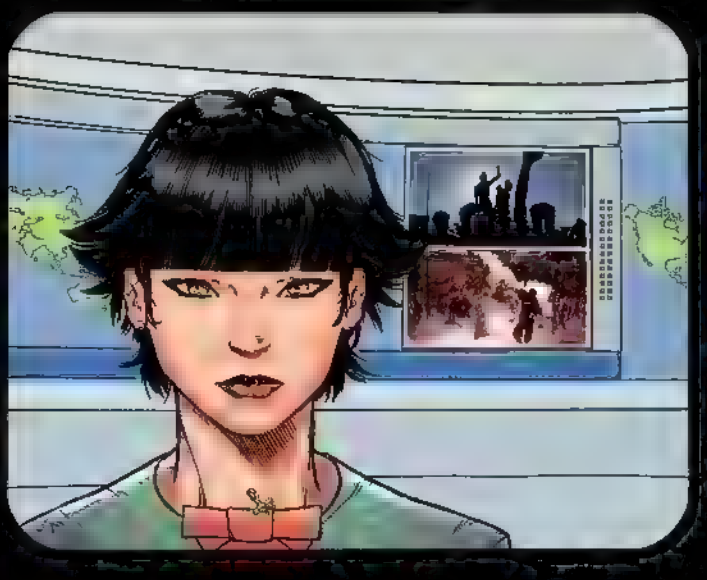
AS THEY SEARCH IN SILENCE, HAUNT DELIBERATES OVER WHETHER HE SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR KILLING FEGREDO.
BUT BEFORE HE CAN MAKE HIS MIND UP...
THE POISON... HAVE YOU NOTICED OTHER SIDE EFFECTS?
A COUPLE.
KURT IS-- WE'RE NOT SURE HOW-- CONNECTED TO THIS SUIT. IT'S WHAT ALLOWS HIM TO KEEP EXISTING HERE.
SINCE I GOT POISONED THOUGH, HE'S STARTED DISAPPEARING SOMETIMES.
AT FIRST IT WAS FOR AN HOUR OR TWO BUT NOW, THE DISAPPEARANCES ARE MORE FREQUENT AND LASTING LONGER.
DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS LONG TERM FOR HIM, BUT IF I CAN'T FIND A CURE, WE'LL PROBABLY BOTH END UP IN THE SAME PLACE.
WOULDN'T COUNT ON THAT.
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
HEY.
THINK I'VE FOUND SOMETHING.

WHAT IS IT?
DON'T KNOW THE EXACT NAME BUT IT'S A TYPE OF COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE.
SOME OF THE SHADOW PLAYERS LIKE TO KEEP CLEAR DIVIDING LINES BETWEEN THEIR DIFFERENT LIVES. THEY'LL USE DEVICES LIKE THESE WHEN DEALING WITH THEIR OWN KIND.
ANY USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR TARGETS, IT'LL BE IN THIS.
CAN YOU OPEN IT?
IT'S ENCRYPTED, BUT I HAVE SOMETHING AT MY BASE THAT SHOULD BE ABLE TO BREAK INTO IT.
GREAT! HOW DO WE GET THERE?
UH, DANNY...

AS THE ZOO'S NEWEST PRISONER CENTURION SPAWN HAD INITIALLY REFUSED HIS CAPTORS' DEMANDS TO FIGHT, HOPING HIS FELLOW PRISONERS WOULD JOIN HIM.
KLANG
UNFORTUNATELY, THE OTHER CAPTURED HELLSPAWNS HAD BEEN HERE LONGER...
...AND HAD SEEN THE BRUTAL CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE.
FUN AND ALL AS THIS IS, CORDELIA, HAVE YOU COME TO A DECISION YET?
QUIET, BARTHOLOMEW. I'M THINKING.
WHAT IS THE POINT OF ALL THIS?

THEY'RE OUR SWORN *ENEMIES!* WHY HAVEN'T WE KILLED THEM YET?
THOUGH, I WOULDN'T DARE PRESUME TO UNDERSTAND THE ALMIGHTY'S WISHES, I IMAGINE HE BELIEVES THERE'S A LOT OF VALUABLE INFORMATION TO BE GAINED FROM THEM.
THAT SHOULD MAKE YOU PLEASED, MY FRIEND, BECAUSE HE SAID HE'S BEEN IMPRESSED WITH YOUR RECENT EFFORTS.
HAS HE?
YES. WHEN I GAVE HIM MY MOST RECENT REPORT, OF ALL HIS SERVANTS, HE SINGLED YOU OUT FOR PARTICULAR PRAISE.
FINALLY.
HAS HE SAID WHEN I MIGHT RETURN TO HEAVEN?

I RAISED THE ISSUE AS YOU REQUESTED, BUT I'M AFRAID HE'S STILL DELIBERATING.
DIDN'T KNOW BEING INDECISIVE WAS A TRAIT OF HIS.
THEN YOU'VE *MISINTERPRETED* THINGS, THE FACT IS, YOU'RE NOT HIS *FIRST* PRIORITY. NOT AT THIS STAGE AT LEAST.
I SEE.
I'M SURE THAT'S FRUSTRATING BUT I'LL CONTINUE TO PLEAD YOUR CASE THE NEXT TIME I SPEAK WITH HIM.
YOU DO THAT
PLEASE, LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU RECEIVE MY NEXT SET OF ORDERS.
IF YOU NEED ME, I'LL BE IN MY QUARTERS.
YOU REALIZE YOU'RE JEOPARDIZING ALL THIS IF OUR BLACK WARRIOR EVER FIGURES OUT THE TRUTH?
YES, WELL WE'D BETTER ENSURE HE DOESN'T, THEN.
THE ONE ON THE LEFT. I'D LIKE TO USE *THAT* ONE FOR OUR LITTLE TEST.



...WHILE THE MARCHES HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FROM MANY ACROSS THIS COUNTRY, THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN A GROWING NUMBER OF OPPONENTS, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING RECENT FOOTAGE OF RIOTING AND LOOTING IN SEVERAL CITIES AROUND THE NATION. ORGANIZERS HAVE INSISTED THAT THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SOME OF THOSE DESTRUCTIVE ACTIONS ARE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE ORGANIZATION'S MARCHERS OR THEIR MISSION.

AS WE'VE SEEN IN THE PAST, THERE HAVE BEEN REPEATED ATTEMPTS FROM A VARIETY OF GROUPS TO INFILTRATE AND DISRUPT WHAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE WELL-STAGED PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS.

MANY ON THE RIGHT HAVE RAISED ***CONCERNS*** ABOUT THESE PROTESTS, MOST NOTABLY SENATOR ANDREW RAWLINS, WHO HAS ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS A PROMINENT VOICE ***OPPOSING*** THE HERO MARCHES, OR AS SOME ARE NOW CALLING THEM, THE ***"SPAWN*** MARCHES".

MY COLLEAGUE MAJID HENDERSON NOTED EARLIER THAT SENATOR RAWLINS HAS, FOR ***SOME TIME,*** BEEN STRIVING TO FIND A ***MESSAGE*** THAT VOTERS WILL ***RESPOND TO*** IN HIS UPCOMING ***RE-ELECTION BID.*** IT LOOKS LIKE THIS COULD BE ***IT.*** POLLING CONDUCTED EARLIER THIS WEEK SHOWS 64% OF ***SUBURBAN RESPONDENTS*** VIEW THIS AS AN ISSUE OF...

LOOK! IT'S NO SECRET THAT ***SENATOR RAWLINS*** HAS, BESIDES BEING A ***COWARD*** IN FAILING TO ***STAND UP*** TO THESE MOB GATHERINGS IN THE PAST, SUDDENLY DECIDED TO WAKE UP TO THE ***FACT*** THAT THE REST OF US HAVE KNOWN FOR ***MONTHS!***

I'VE BEEN HERE ***DAILY,*** ALONG WITH ***DOZENS*** OF WELL-CHOSEN GUESTS, WARNING YOU ABOUT THESE ***SO-CALLED*** PEACEFUL PROTESTS. THE TRUTH IS, OUR DEAR SENATOR DOESN'T HAVE A ***CLUE*** ABOUT THE TRUE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THESE RALLIES! ***WELL... WE DO!!!***

TO ***HELL*** WITH THESE ***POLITICAL HACKS*** LIKE ***RAWLINS!*** YOU'LL FIND THE ***UNFILTERED TRUTH*** ONLY ***HERE*** AT ***THIS STATION*** WHERE ***HONESTY*** AND ***FREEDOM*** ARE ALWAYS...

SPAWN'S HIDEOUT
WHAT'S TAKING HIM SO LONG? HE'S BEEN IN THERE FOR HOURS
HE'S JUST DOING HIS THING, LEAVE HIM BE
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT! I'M SAYING HIS WORLD INCLUDES SHIT WE HAVEN'T DEALT WITH YET AND SOMEHOW WE'RE GETTING PULLED INTO IT.
SORRY, IT'S JUST... I'M STILL FINDING ALL OF THIS A BIT HARD TO PROCESS. WE'VE DEALT WITH SOME CRAZY STUFF, BUT HEAVEN AND HELL... THAT'S A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.
REALLY? I THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE BEEN RELIEVED TO KNOW THE MAGIC SKY FAIRY IS REAL AFTER ALL.
YOU WERE ALREADY SPYING ON HIM. STOP ACTING LIKE ALL THIS IS A SURPRISE.
THE SURPRISE IS YOU NOT TELLING ME YOU KNEW HIM. WERE YOU FRIENDS OR SOMETHING ELSE?
I ONLY MET HIM ONCE. DURING ONE OF MY EARLIEST MISSIONS WITH THE AGENCY.
WE WERE BOTH IN THIS HUGE CROSS-AGENCY TASKFORCE THAT WAS SENT TO EXTRACT A SCIENTIST OUT OF GUADALAJARA.
MISSION ITSELF WAS A DISASTER-- TARGET GOT KILLED AND WE BARELY MADE IT OUT ALIVE-- BUT MY MEMORY OF SIMMONS IS THAT HE WAS SOMEONE WORTH HAVING ON YOUR SIDE. A BIT HEADSTRONG, BUT DEPENDABLE.
SO, WE CAN TRUST HIM?
WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.
I'M GOING FOR A WALK.

MINUTES LATER HE STUMBLES INTO SOMETHING.
GO... A... WAY.
YOU GOT A PROBLEM, KING KONG?
snort
I TOLD YOU, DON'T WANDER, HAUNT! NOW, GET BACK TO THE COMPUTER ROOM
IT'S ALRIGHT, CY-GOR. THANKS FOR KEEPING AN EYE ON THINGS.
YOU CAN GO RETURN TO YOUR ROOM. GET SOME REST. I'VE GOT THIS UNDER CONTROL.

I THINK I'VE FOUND OUT WHO ORDERED THAT ATTACK ON YOU. AN AGENT NAMED ARTHUR SILVINE.
LIKE FEGREDO, HE'S ANOTHER OF HEAVEN'S OPERATIVES STUCK ON EARTH. HE RUNS SEVERAL LOGISTICS COMPANIES IN NORTH AMERICA.
HE AND FEGREDO GOT THEIR STARTS AS LIEUTENANTS WORKING UNDER A CRIME LORD CALLED SIMON PROKSCH. ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO, THE PAIR STAGED A COUP AND DIVIDED PROKSCH'S EMPIRE BETWEEN THEM. THEY'VE MAINTAINED A CLOSE ALLIANCE SINCE.
THE WOMAN, THE ONE WHO POISONED YOU, SHE'S ONE OF SILVINE'S ENFORCERS.
"LYDIA," AS I'M SURE YOU'VE GUESSED, IS JUST ONE OF A DOZEN OF HER IDENTITIES.
AND FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN FROM THE DATA WE GRABBED FROM FEGREDO'S DEVICE, IT LOOKS LIKE HEAVEN AND HELL HATE YOU ALMOST AS MUCH AS THEY HATE ME.
YOU'D BE A BIG SCALP FOR EITHER SIDE. SILVINE WAS PROBABLY TRYING TO RAISE HIS PROFILE AMONG HEAVEN'S FORCES.
GREAT! THEN LET'S HUNT HIM DOWN INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR THEIR ATTACKS.
I SAW ONE OF HIS FILES DETAILED A MEETING HE WAS HAVING WITH COGLIOSTRO TONIGHT. WE SHOULD BE THERE.

AGREED?
COGLIOSTRO? WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THAT GUY, ANYWAY?
HE'S A FORMER MENTOR AND I NEED HIS HELP WITH SOMETHING.
WHAT HE'S DOING WITH FEGREDO AND SILVINE, DON'T KNOW, BUT IT CAN'T BE GOOD.
BUT, IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME ALONG ON THIS, YOU BOTH FOLLOW MY LEAD.
UNDERSTAND?
ARE YOU ASKING ME TO...
FINE. WE ACCEPT.
GOOD. THERE'S A ROOM DOWN THE HALL YOU CAN REST IN. I'LL COME GET YOU WHEN IT'S TIME TO GO.

I DON'T THINK THAT'S A PRUDENT PLAN, WE SHOULD SIT TIGHT AND WAIT FOR FEGREDO TO GET HERE. THEN I CAN EXPLAIN IT TO BOTH OF YOU AT THE SAME TIME.
FORGET ABOUT FEGREDO, IRIS! AND WHERE THE HELL'S COG ANYWAY?
COGLIOSTRO SENDS HIS APOLOGIES AS HE'S TIED UP WITH OTHER MATTERS. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES IT'S APPROPRIATE FOR YOU AND FEGREDO TO SPEAK WITH ME DIRECTLY UNTIL WE'VE RESOLVED OUR ISSUES.
IS THAT RIGHT?
YES. COGLIOSTRO IS CONCERNED YOU AND FREGREDO MAY HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD THE ARRANGEMENT BEING PROPOSED. THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT HE IS INTERESTED IN SOME KIND OF EQUAL PARTNERSHIP.
ABOUT BEING EQUAL PARTNERS?
WHAT IS HE INTERESTED IN THEN?
YOUR ALLEGIANCE.

IS THAT A JOKE?
I ASSURE YOU, COGLIOSTRO IS QUITE SERIOUS
HE HAD HOPED YOU'D HAVE THE FORE-SIGHT TO UNDERSTAND THE BENEFITS OF SERVING AT HIS SIDE.
HIS SIDE? THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A PARTNERSHIP, NOT A JOB RECRUIT-MENT.
HE WANTS TO CHANGE THAT, TELL HIM TO GET HIS ASS DOWN HEAR AND ASK US HIMSELF!
THE SLIGHTEST CHANGE IN TEMPERA-TURE ALERTS IRIS TO SOMETHING UNINVITED.
WELL, NOW. THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED SURPRISE.
IT'S A PLEASURE, SPAWN, TO FINALLY MEET YOU IN THE FLESH AFTER ALL THIS TIME.

COG HAS TOLD ME SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.
SILVINE?
YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK YOU COULD TRUST HIM, DID YOU?
WHY DO YOU CARE?
BECAUSE HE USES EVERYONE, UNTIL THEY'RE NO LONGER USEFUL, THEN ELIMINATES THEM. I'M BETTING HE DIDN'T TELL YOU THAT PART.
IS THAT WHY COG ISN'T HERE, IRIS? TO AMBUSH US?!
SPAWN IS BEING A LITTLE DRAMATIC.

BY SENDING SPAWN AND HAUNT TO SPREAD THEIR LIES?!
THEN YOU'LL ALL DIE!... AND COG WILL BE NEXT!

1:9:3:6

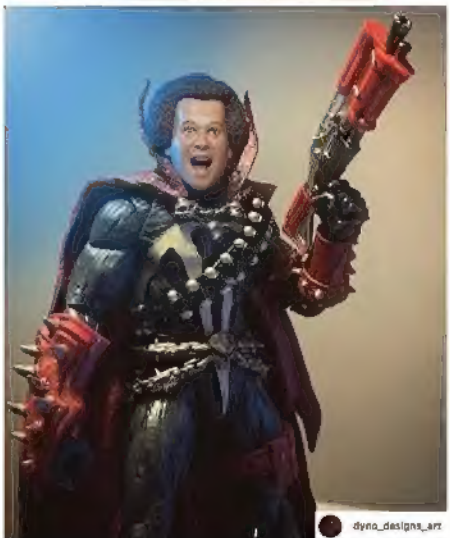
SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS:

THE BREAKDOWN

#HOLIDAYSPAWN

We here at Team Spawn know that our readers were good enough for a visit from Santa Spawn this year and we want to see what he brought you! Did you leave out milk and cookies for the big man himself? Did he bring you everything on your wishlist, or did Malebolgia leave coal in your stocking? Show off your Holiday Spawn cheer on social media with the hashtag #HolidaySpawn. Here are a few of our favorite posts:



Do you have a question or comment about Spawn? If so, e-mail it to us at:
spawningground@mcfarlane.com

VELVET DEADLY CLASS ROYAL CITY
LAZARUS EAST OF WEST I KILL GIANTS
THE WALKING DEAD I HATE FAIRYLAND
KING CITY SEX CRIMINALS
KILL OR BE KILLED RAT QUEENS
CURSE WORDS
SOUTHERN BASTARDS SPAWN THE WICKED + THE DIVINE BLUE MONDAY
MONSTRESS CHEW KINGSMAN
NOWHERE MEN
HOWTOONS THEY'RE NOT LIKE US SUNSTONE SEVEN TO ETERNITY
DESCENDER PAPER GIRLS
OCTOPUS PIE WYTCHES SHUTTER
TOKYO GHOST THE BLACK MONDAY MURDERS BITCH PLANET
SAGA MOTOR CRUSH WAYWARD TREES
THE AUTUMNLANDS
CRIMINAL
PLUTONA LOW
REVIVAL NAILBITER
CAMP MIDNIGHT
SNOTGIRL ODDLY NORMAL
MAGE HINGES
BLACK SCIENCE
PRETTY DEADLY
THE FADE OUT

IMAGE
CLASSICS

image

A BOOK FOR EVERY READER.

IMAGECOMICS.COM

SAGA © Brian K. Vaughan & Fiona Staples. All rights reserved. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

SPAWN® 327

STILL ONLY
$2.99

MARCH 2022

ONLY FROM
IMAGECOMICS.COM

Image Comics ® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image comics, Inc. All rights reserved